

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
DODE-00 OMB-01 (ISO) W
-----033956 231728Z /53

R 221155Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0963
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 04139

E.O. 11651: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MPOL, CA
SUBJECT: PROJECTIONS OF CANADIAN SPENDING

REF: (A) USDAO OTTAWA 181918Z APR 78 (B) US NATO 3506
(DTG 061636 APR 78)

1. USDAO OTTAWA NOTED IN REFTEL A THAT PRELIMINARY
CANADIAN DEFENSE BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1978/79 SHOW AN IN-
CREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR OF .27 PERCENT. THIS COM-
PARES WITH AN ESTIMATED 1.3 PERCENT INCREASE IN REAL
TERMS REPORTED TO THE ALLIANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE 1977
DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE.

2. NATO MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE IN MAY 1977 CALLED FOR
COUNTRIES TO AIM AT 3 PERCENT REAL INCREASES IN ANNUAL
DEFENSE SPENDING FOR THE PLANNING PERIOD 1979-84. MEMBER
COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO REACH THE SPENDING
TARGET EARLIER, BUT A SHORTFALL SUCH AS CANADA'S IN 1978-
79 IS NOT TECHNICALLY IN CONFLICT WITH THE GUIDANCE. AT
THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) CONSIDERATION OF
CANADIAN DRAFT FORCE GOALS ON APRIL 4, 1978, CANADIAN
REP ANNOUNCED PLANS TO INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING BY 3
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PERCENT REAL ANNUAL INCREASE FOR THE PERIOD 1979-84
(REFTEL B).

3. WE WOULD ONLY NOTE THAT CANADIAN OFFICIALS MIGHT
RAISE THIS TECHNICALITY IN ANY CONTACTS AS PROPOSED
REFTEL A, AND COULD POINT TO THE ASSURANCES GIVEN THE DRC
AS FALLING WITHIN THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. IN VIEW

OF THESE ASSURANCES GIVEN IN BRUSSELS, IT MIGHT BE
USEFUL FOR USDAO TO CONFIRM CANADIAN INTENTIONS WITH
MND IN OTTAWA.GLITMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, ALLIANCE, FUND ALLOTMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO04139
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780173-0739
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780427/aaaaawgo.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7e4c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2877360
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROJECTIONS OF CANADIAN SPENDING
TAGS: MPOL, CA, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7e4c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014